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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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## Volume 27, Number 2

Post Amerikan

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# POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 27

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NUMBER 2

APRIL/MAY 1998

— 1998 —

## POSTAPALOOZA

A Night to Remember

WERE YOU THERE?



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### About us

The *Post Amerikan* is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or down played by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media.

We put out six issues a year. Staff members take turns as "coordinator." All writing, typing, editing, graphics, photography, pasteup, and distribution are done on a volunteer basis. You are invited to volunteer your talents.

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The *Post Amerikan* welcomes stories, graphics, photos, letters, and new tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us, call 828-4473 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Don't worry if it takes a while--we don't meet every week.

An alternative newspaper depends directly on a community of concerned people for existence. We believe it is very important to keep a newspaper like this around. If you think so too, then please support us by telling your friends about the paper, donating money to the printing of the paper, and telling our advertisers you saw their ad in *Post Amerikan*.

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions to the *Post Amerikan* are available for the low price of \$6.00 per year for six complete issues. Please send a check (made payable to the *Post Amerikan*) to: Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452 Bloomington, IL 61702.

This issue of *Post Amerikan* is brought to you by...

Dan, David, Fish, Linda,  
Ralph, Sherrin and Steve

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### Due Date:

The due date for submitting articles to the *Post Amerikan* is: (please laser print your articles in columns of 3" using Palatino 10pt. type if possible.)

May 15

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  National.....1-800-AID-AIDS  
  Illinois.....1-800-243-2437  
  Local.....827-AIDS  
Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-7092  
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Boys and Girls Club.....829-3034  
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Countering Domestic Violence.....827-7070  
Dept. of Children/Family Services....828-0022  
Gay & Lesbian Resource Phoneline...438-2429  
Habitat for Humanity.....829-0693  
HELP (transportation for senior  
  citizens/handicapped).....828-8301  
Home Sweet Home Mission.....828-7356  
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Narcotics Anonymous.....1-800-779-6178  
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Occupational Development Center....452-7324  
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PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help).827-4005  
Phone Friends.....827-4005  
PFLAG(Parents, Families and Friends  
  of Lesbians and Gays).....663-0831  
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Voice for Choice.....828-3108  
Western Ave. Community Center.....829-4807



# Community News



## Beyond Normal Films

Beyond Normal Films is a not for profit organization which assists the Normal Theater in selecting foreign/independent films to be shown on a monthly basis.

The following films are selected for April, May and June.

### Fast, Cheap & Out of Control

Saturday, April 11 7 + 9:30pm  
Sunday, April 12 7pm

The creator of such groundbreaking films as "A Brief History of Time" and "The Thin Blue Line," Errol Morris is one of the most original filmmakers working today. His latest, "Fast, Cheap & Out of Control," may be his most unusual work yet.

The film interweaves the stories of four obsessive men, each driven to create eccentric worlds of their dreams, all involving animals: Dave Hoover, a lion tamer who idolizes the late Clyde Beatty; George Mendonca, a topiary gardener who has devoted a lifetime to painstakingly shaping bears and giraffes out of hedges and trees; Ray Mendez, who is fascinated with hairless mole-rats, tiny buck-toothed mammals who behave like insects; and Rodney Brooks, an M.I.T. scientist who has designed complex, autonomous robots that can crawl like bugs without specific instructions from a human controller.

The film's style is as adventurous as its subject matter. Morris utilizes numerous film formats and resolutions—including black & white, color 35mm, 16mm, Super-8 and video, as well as stock footage, old movies and cartoons—to create a singularly impressionistic collage of images.

Hilarious, sad, absurd, eerie and beautiful, "Fast, Cheap & Out of Control" is a film like no other.

### Sunday

Thursday May 7 7pm  
Friday May 8 7pm

The winner of the 1997 Grand Prize at Sundance is a poetic, tragicomic fantasy about fractured lives being pieced together on a frigid Sunday in Queens, New York. Middle-aged Oliver, a downsized IBM accountant who has recently lost hold of his middle-class life, does not want to fit in at his new home—the men's Presbyterian shelter.

But on this Sunday, his "day of nothingness," he meets Madeleine, an out-of-luck English actress who is carrying an enormous potted plant. She mistakes him for a film director named Matthew with whom she has worked in the past. In an uncharacteristic spasm of bravado, Oliver decides to play along. In no time, they

are lunching in a diner she thinks would be a good location for his next movie—about a homeless man. For the rest of the day, and for the rest of this funny, intensely moving, scary, dream-like film, Oliver and Madeline attempt to nurture their mutual fantasy.

The heart of this movie is strong. It is about two people who were once good at what they did, who were "downsized" in one way or another, and who now feel stranded and worthless. It is about two people who would rather build and share a fantasy together than do whatever else would have occupied them on this empty Sunday.

### Thieves (Les Voleurs)

Thursday June 4 7pm  
Friday June 5 7pm  
Saturday June 6 7 + 9:30pm  
Sunday June 7 7pm

"Les Voleurs (Thieves)" is a psychological thriller from France, which interweaves a contemporary love triangle with a family chronicle and noirish intrigue. Through the shifting of narrative voices, this intricately woven series of flashbacks and flash-forwards reveals each character's piece of the puzzle.

With the spectacular backdrop of early morning in the French Alps, 10-year old Justin awakens to the sounds of his mother grieving over the sudden death of his father Ivan. Ivan's brother Alex, a brooding detective long estranged from his family, is compelled to investigate his brother's murder.

Flashbacks reveal not only the circumstances surrounding the murder of Ivan, but also the detached, sex-driven relationship of Alex and Juliette. What begins as a series of frequent but disaffected hotel trysts soon becomes complicated by Alex's unease over Juliette's passionate love affair with her philosophy professor, Marie.

Techine delves deep into the passions, spoken or unspoken, acknowledged but more often disavowed, of families and of lovers.

--BNF film schedule

## Amasong Wins 1998 GLAMA Award

Amasong, Champaign-Urbana's premier lesbian/feminist chorus, is the winner of the 1998 GLAMA Award for Best Choral Group Performance. The award was presented March 9 at the annual Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards ceremony in New York City. Kristina Boerger, founding director of Amasong, accepted the award on behalf of the singers and the board of directors.

The award was given for "Strange Fruit," a selection from Amasong's first CD "Over Here the Water is Sweet."

"Strange Fruit" was written by Lewis Allen (the pseudonym of Abe Meeropol), a socialist activist and the adoptive father of the children of the Rosenbergs' after their execution for treason. The song is a powerful metaphor for the racist lynching of Black men in the Southern states. Written for and first recorded by Billy Holiday, "Strange Fruit" was subsequently recorded by Sarah Vaughan, Nina Simone and Faith Nolan.

Other groups nominated in the Best Choral Group Performance category were the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington D.C., the San Francisco Gay Men's Choir, the Women's Chorus of Dallas, and Positive Voices.

Amasong began in 1990 with 16 members and has grown to its present membership of 60. The choir includes music professionals, seasoned amateurs, and beginners with no music-reading ability or previous choral training. Choir members are a mixture of many different sexual orientations, professions, religions, family units and economic situations. This diverse group of individuals is dedicated to a common goal - the pursuit of choral excellence within an atmosphere that celebrates all forms of women's devotion to women.

Amasong's spring concerts will be held June 6 and 7 at McKinley Presbyterian Church, Champaign. The program will feature "Strange Fruit" as well as music from Ireland, Finland and Africa. Watch the bulletin board at the OUT Bookstore in downtown Bloomington for more details. The OUT Bookstore also has copies of Amasong's CD for sale.

For bookings or more information about Amasong, contact Kristina Boerger at 217-328-6068.

cont. on next page



# Comm. News cont.

## ISU Shakespeare Fest goes union

Illinois State University's (ISU) Illinois Shakespeare Festival takes a dramatic leap-forward this year--it's going union.

The popular festival, held on the grounds of Ewing Manor in Bloomington, will now use AFL-CIO Actor's Equity members, along with students, in its productions.

Three plays are slated for this summer, Shakespeare's comedies *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Measure for Measure*. Plus there is Jeffrey Sweet adaptation of Shakespeare's Henry VI plays into one production, *The Falcon's Pitch*.

ISU Theater Department head Tad Currie, and Equity member, said this was a significant move for the Festival and ISU. "It's time for the Festival to become professional," he said. "It makes a tremendous difference in the performance. It lets our students work in a professional environment with work rules so they understand that world. Anybody serious in theater will become a member of the union. This allows us to hire people we have great respect for."

Tandy Cronyn, renowned for her TV and film work, is one of the union professionals who will grace the Festival's stage this summer. Currie hopes this new agreement will allow ISU to hire professional union actors to work with students during regular school year productions.

It may also open an opportunity to bring some of the university's famous alumni, now starring on stage, screen and TV, back to work with the students.

The Festival offers free Family Green shows to introduce young audiences to Shakespeare, plus patrons can enjoy a picnic on the Ewing grounds, miniplays for children and stage combat demonstrations before performances. Ticket prices range form \$8 to \$22, with season passes and group rates available. For more information casl the University box office at 309-438-2535.

--Livingston & McLean Counties  
Union News / March 1998

## Prime Focus

March 3 - April 12 1998  
University Galleries  
ISU- 110 Center for the Visual Arts(CVA)

As we stand on the brink of the new millennium, science plays an increasingly vital role in our fast-forward culture. Science propels contemporary culture into the future with exponential discoveries, but this power can transgress ethical and humanitarian boundaries, in turn, becoming unchecked and out of control. It is a function of the arts, sometimes perceived as the weaker of the two disciplines, to critically examine the "truths" that science presents and to infuse science with humanity. Dan Rose explores the implications of the



Human Genome Project in a futuristic found-object sculptural installation that alludes to the symbiotic relationship between science and science fiction. The look and language of nineteenth-century science manuals and encyclopedias are referenced by Sue Johnson in a print installation that comments upon the trust we place in science to provide us with facts about the world. (ART)<sup>1</sup> Laboratory, a Chicago based artist/scientist group, appropriates high-tech scientific imaging processes to make Virtual Photographs/PHSColograms of chemical compounds and viruses that resonate with environmental, medical and cultural implications. Comical depictions of nature, such as the trials and tribulations of the food chain and the mating rituals of the praying mantis, are photographed in the studio by New York photographer Catherine Chalmers. Beverly Fishman, head of the painting department at Cranbrook Academy of Art, combines the ancient practice of painting with the modern technology of color laser photocopiers, creating hybrids that meld the microcosmic world of cellular biology with the macrocosmic world of astrophysics. Catherine Wagner, a photographer from San Francisco, demystifies the language of science by documenting laboratories and their relationship to popular culture through large, detailed black and white photographs of scientific apparatus. Just as astronomers capture the heavens in photographs taken at the "prime focus" of towering telescopes, the six artists in this exhibition bring contemporary scientific/cultural issues into prime focus through imaginative, sometimes absurd creations which ask us to question what we know about the time, place and space in which we exist.

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# Notes from the Land of Anti-fat

Et Tu, Drew?

That sound you hear is the collective groaning coming from both fat admirers and members of the size acceptance community on the heels of March 11's broadcast of "The Drew Carey Show." After weeks of flirting with a fat positive romance between sitcom star Drew and a fat suit wearing Kate Walsh, the top-rated sitcom has seemingly backed away from the issue. In what has to be the most polarizing sitcom episode since "Roseanne's" final bow, the working class comedy threw the brakes on an impending marriage between Drew and his feedee girlfriend Nicki Fifer, by having her break off the engagement at the last minute.

The show has long held an ambivalent attitude towards size. Though both its titular hero and his workplace nemesis, Mimi (Kathy Kinney), are fat, the series' writers have regularly resorted to size-based insult lines. The Drew/Nicki romance was a subplot for most of the season. First time we saw the character, she appeared to be your typical slim love interest, but as the affair progressed, we learned that the character had previously been fat, a la Courtney Cox's character in "Friends."

As the season passed, however, the character began to re-gain her "lost" weight - thanx to padding and facial makeup that added an extra chin. The duo's relationship was depicted as a food-centered one, with both partners getting a sexual charge out of feeding each other: one episode even opened with a parody of "9 1/2 Weeks'" famous kitchen sequence. By the time of the announced wedding, the character had gone from slim to mid-sized, somewhere in the mid-two-hundred pounds range - though, interestingly, the makeup people gave her the face of a much larger woman.

Reaction to this whole plotline has been mixed in the size acceptance community. At the root of the discussion is that community's division over so-called feeder/feedee relationships and the movement's antipathy towards the idea that fatness automatically means overeating. The second issue has been addressed repeatedly in this column, so we'll simply note once more that we know the reasons behind fatness are more complicated than that. Let's move onto issue Number One.

Within the fat positive community is a subgroup of men and women fascinated by the face of weight gain. While the dynamics behind this have been parsed at length by the s.a. community at large, the fact remains that this is an active group with a shared library of fantasies revolving around the topic. More mainstream size acceptance advocates frequently feel uncomfortable about this group, in part because its fantasies are so often reinforced by cultural stereotypes. Where most size acceptance advocates have striven to counteract the gluttony myth, fanta-sizers find the image sexy.

There have even been stories - some undoubtedly apocryphal - of a would-be feeder hitting on a vulnerable fat woman and

convincing her to gain more weight for them. Once she's gained all that she can, the story goes, the feeder dumps her for another target. You can imagine how this particular urban myth would have folks scurrying for cover. It hits on two of our deepest fears: fear of abandonment and fear of weight gain.

Most fanta-sizers keep their quirks on paper or cyberspace (hit the Internet and you'll find several straight and gay sites devoted to em). And outside of the occasional self-righteous blast against feederism by zealots eager to find something to rant about, the whole sub-culture has been pretty low-key. Once "Drew Carey" started broadcasting a telegenic version of the fiction, however, the subject came up for more discussion.

One problem with the feeder fantasy is the way it can backfire on those most attracted to it. The March 11 episode is one good example of how this can happen. In it, Drew and fiancée Nicki make a videotape of themselves in the bedroom; when Nicki sees herself on video camera, she is so appalled by the sight of her fat self, that she calls off the wedding. She tells Drew that she's ugly and unattractive and that he's helped her get that way. "You are the problem," she says, putting the blame for her weight gain fully on their feeding relationship.

Statistically, of course, Nicki's chances (3 to 5%) of keeping her lost weight off even without Drew were pretty slim, anyhow, but let's ignore that stat for now. Nicki's decision to dump that feedin' chump is consistent with the tenets of Overeaters' Anonymous, the A.A. spin-off that's been around for years. The A.A./N.A. addiction model is a familiar one around Hollywood, so we shouldn't be surprised to see it cropping up here.

Nor should we be surprised at the character's reaction to the sight of herself on-camera. Mainstream media has been peddling the line that ultra-slim is beautiful for so long that even an average sized woman is made to feel



© Acey Deacy

fat and unattractive. Nicki's character was portrayed as struggling with her self-esteem before the break-off; her video image was the final straw.

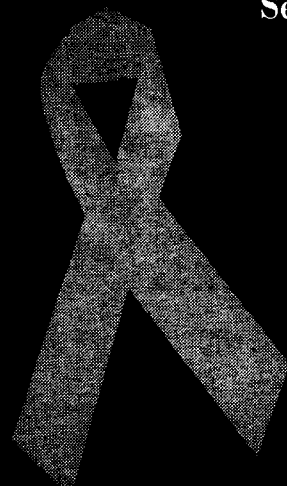
In light of this, the character's decision to drop the wedding makes dramatic sense, though one suspects that much of the American audience will accept the character's loathing self-descriptions without even questioning them. The problem with trying to dramatize our cultural ambivalence around size is the fact that we all bring so much emotional baggage to the issue. So much credible sounding crap about fatness has been spread that few of us are armed to separate myth from reality.

I don't know where "Drew Carey's" writers stand on size and sensuality; it'll be interesting to see how they follow up this most recent development in the character's romantic tribulations. The worse case scenario revolves around Nicki showing up sans makeup and fat suit - suitable for Drew because she's thin again. To do so would be a slap in the face of every fat man and woman who's managed to find a measure of self-acceptance - and to those partners who like them for who they are right now.

--B. Sherman

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## Seeing Red

# War Still Alive in the Iraqi

by Steve Eckardt

The whole world breathed a sigh of relief when the imminent threat of a U.S. air assault on Iraq was halted, following a mission to Baghdad to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Heck, even some swivel-chair warriors in Washington welcomed the sudden reprieve, having caught a glimmer of what was blatantly obvious to anyone not drooling on themselves: Washington had deftly maneuvered itself into a lose/lose situation.

Yes, the Masters of the Empire had crafted a script wherein U.S. victory could only be achieved by wiping Iraq clean of all living souls; in fact, a top-secret directive (as revealed in the 2 February *New York Post*) did authorize using nuclear weapons against Iraq.

Here was the scenario: first, the best and the brightest--having maintained a relentless, seven-year embargo against Iraq, an embargo which has killed nearly 700,000 children--made clear that there was no prospect of the embargo ever being lifted.

### Outrageous

Then, they deliberately provoked Iraq by dispatching a supposed UN inspection team composed almost entirely of Americans, and headed by a former U.S. military intelligence officer.

Next, when Iraq had the audacity to ask for a more representative team, Washington launched an international outcry about some sudden new danger posed by Iraqi "weapons of mass destruction." This charge was rather curious, to say the least, given that weapons inspectors--so important that they were worth

going to war over--had already been there for seven years. Hmmmm.....so either the weapons inspectors had long since proved themselves utterly useless ... or Iraq's weapons programs were substantially weaker than they were in 1991.

### Forward, ever forward

But, never one to let obvious facts stand in its way, Washington pressed on, unleashing a massive worldwide diplomatic and public-relations campaign which reaped the powerful support of ... Kuwait, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the beachfront nation of Australia.

Limitation of international support to these fawning allies which, as one wag put it, "would support an American cheese-gathering mission to the Moon," slowed not the accelerating U.S. military juggernaut. Washington spent over \$600 million to assemble a vast destructive force in the Gulf and was at last poised to (as George Carlin says) do what the U.S. does best: bomb another small country.

After that, surely the United States could survey the results with pride, having achieved .... having achieved.....having achieved what?

Unfortunately, the grand strategists in Washington neglected to consider that Iraq need only endure conventional U.S. military attacks--which, however horrific would be dwarfed by the human devastation already wreaked by the existing murderous "sanctions"--for Washington to seemingly come out the loser. All it would take is a single surviving Iraqi saying "nyah-nyah-nyah-nyah-nyah."

Ooops.

But wait--there's always nuclear weapons. See if anybody's still laughing *then*.....

Much as everybody would like this story to join the vast twilight junkyard of old media hoopla's (where the wraiths of Tonya Harding, Richard Jewell and Princess Di still dwell), the sad news is that this is one story that is far from over. All the actors, all the scenes, all the machinery are still in place.

The 21 February "Memorandum of Understanding" issued by the UN Secretary-General did nothing to close down the production. It did not even turn back the clock.

Everything still hangs in the same position as on 20 February--except now Washington, having given Iraq a "second chance," has a blank check for next time it decides it's been offended.

Yet when better but in a moment of frozen time to look at what's behind the still-impending American use of weapons of mass destruction?

For that matter, when better than to plan our response? After all, who hasn't suffered verbal ridicule--or even a bully's punch--and come up with a devastating response ... maybe a week later. So now, as the clock stands still, is our chance--a freebie if there ever was one.

### Meltdown

But first let's take a look at the backdrop and the cast of characters.

The Iraq drama, like all others nowadays, plays out in the setting of a profound economic crisis: the old classic "crisis of over-production" that cyclically brings Depressions and world wars under capitalism (fates from which we've been anomalously spared for some 50 years).

But it's back: what the *New York Times* has called a "market glut" in virtually every area of the world economy. Wealthy capitalist nations are forced to scramble for competitive advantage. They slash wages and social benefits at home ("austerity"), ship production to what economists call "low-wage export platforms" (i.e., the Third World), demand increased tribute from their semi-colonies (including imposing breath-taking currency devaluations which have increased impoverished nations' debts by as much as *three times*), and wield trading blocs (e.g., NAFTA or the European Economic Community) and even health scares (e.g., Mad Cow disease) against each other.

Meanwhile, normal Imperial operations submerge alleged "emerging economic miracles" from Mexico to the Czech Republic to the "tigers" of Asia, albeit at a now-accelerated pace.

WHAT'S GOING ON!

ESCAPIST  
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# Theater

## No answer but war

But none of this has broken the chokepoint, and so capitalists strangling on their own system face only two solutions: war against each other (World War #3) or opening vast new markets.

Of course there's only one place that such markets can be found: the still-noncapitalist economies of Eastern Europe, Russia, and China.

Problem *there* is that despite all the vaunted "collapse of socialism," profitable capitalism has yet to be re-established in any of these places, even in Yugoslavia where racist genocide was inflicted. And despite the emerging rule of open Mafioso-style wannabe capitalists in the non-capitalist world, workers there persist in demanding levels of health, education and welfare benefits far beyond the you're-own-your-own-Jack levels found in the wealthy United States, let alone in the death-squad riddled nations of Africa Latin America that the "former socialist countries" are scripted to become like.

And so the Empires--especially the Northern Colossus--are driven toward violence, toward using their vastly-superior military power as the only way to save themselves.

The drive toward war, then, is the pre-eminent fact in the world scene. This is not something that will simply wilt before protests, or even international isolation. It's a question of survival for the rulers.

## Method to their madness

Within this scene the seemingly mad and self-destructive ("lose/lose") course of lead character, Uncle Sam, begins to make sense. To Sam, Iraq itself is not a major concern--but U.S. control of MidEast oil resources puts its competitors in France, Germany and Japan at American mercy; and Sam's wielding of military force in the Gulf sends a strong message to any Third World nation that decides to get uppity. (Toss in the fringe benefit of enlisting American workers in a nationalist frenzy which isolates them from their fellows around the world, while establishing a useful witch-hunt atmosphere at home.)

Then there's the need to someday use military force against the former Societ Bloc to make it truly part of the Free World--the American-ruled portion, of course.

Put this all together and you've got a nation driven toward war, consequences by damned.

## Misbehaving quisling

As for Saddam Hussein, he stands revealed as simultaneously weak and vile. He is being jammed by his former bosses--despite years on the CIA payroll and his dutiful offering-up of a million dead and injured Iranians from his proxy war against the 1979 Iranian revolution. Yet he dare not truly mobilize the Iraqi--or even neighboring--people against the Empire,

knowing full-well that given half a chance the peoples he rules will impose their own will and overthrow his dictatorship.

Given the choice between the will of his foreign master and that of his own people, Saddam knows who will merely screw his throat and who will cut it.

Meanwhile, Washington (who would love to put Saddam's head on a stake for Imperial subjects to view and ponder) dare not touch its wayward agent lest the Iraqi people--Uncle Sam's true enemy, the one he's spent seven years starving--erupt and blow Imperial rule of the Middle East apart. (The Kurds are of special concern here, for should Saddam's grip on them slip, they would quickly dismember not only Iraq, but the U.S. darling, Turkey. That's why the ol' Uncle deviously called on them to rebel after the Gulf War--and then stood back smiling while Saddam butchered them by the truckload.)

## Audience's Turn

Operatic as this drama might be, its current re-staging still looks to much like (*a la* Yogi Berra) *déjà vu* all over again. What's missing is the greatest actor, the majority of humanity--the vast number of normal human beings silly enough to work and farm for a living, folks who wield neither dictatorships nor nuclear weapons.

True, we did manage a bit appearance at the famous "town meeting" in Ohio and had an impact far beyond our few unscripted lines.

And so back to the chance to think out our response....

Surely it's time to seize the stage and tear up a script obviously headed for disaster, perhaps even of a nuclear variety.

Surely it's time to follow the lead of the two thousand people who were demonstrating in New York even as these words were written: not just no bombing, lift all sanctions against the people of Iraq.

Moreover, it's time to demand that all UN weapons inspectors--and every other violation of Iraqi sovereignty--be permanently withdrawn.

## Different vision

For who are the Iraqi people? "Camel jockeys?" "Sand niggers?"

Or are they us--workers and farmers, women and children, fellow working people?


What Third World country--let alone what working class organization--can be free when the Empire can wantonly violate our independence and national sovereignty? When it can disarm us while reserving the greatest arsenal in history for itself?

Ask the workers who spent years fighting for democracy in the Teamsters (largest union in the U.S.) about the benevolence of intervention by Washington: their reformer president was just removed by federal action after he dared lead a successful strike against one of the country's largest employers.

Surely it is time to revive the old labor slogan "An Injury to One is an Injury to All"--which today means "Hands off Iraq!"

For in this moment of frozen time--which even now Washington is trying to turn into a blank check for future unilateral military action--does not the spotlight reveal that our enemy--the enemy of humanity--is here at home?

More material can be found at [www.SeeingRed.com](http://www.SeeingRed.com), site of the new online magazine of the same name. Eckardt welcomes comments, questions and criticism; leave them at the website or mail them to PostAmerikan.



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# News from Voice for

## Anti-choice bills introduced in Illinois House

The following is a list of anti-choice bills introduced into the Illinois House and Senate: HB2610 – Control of Funding for Local Boards of Health: would prohibit any board of health from accepting a grant from a public or private entity without the approval of the board's corporate authority (usually the county board). This bill was designed to attack local family planning programs funded through Title X, the nation's family planning program.

HB 3174 – Misinformed Consent - Requires a physician to give a state mandated lecture designed to dissuade a woman from having an abortion. Includes a 24 hour waiting period. Also includes burdensome reporting requirements. Attempts to give a fetus the status of a person under Illinois law. Violations include Class A misdemeanor, Class B misdemeanor, grounds for civil lawsuits, and revocation or suspension of medical license.

HB 3204 – Restriction on Insurance Coverage of Abortion – would prohibit insurance coverage of "elective" abortions unless a separate rider for such coverage is purchased. The definition of "elective" abortion includes medically necessary abortions.

HB 3362 – Misinformed Consent – contains virtually the same provisions as HB 3174, except it omits reporting requirements.

No action has been taken on these bills so far. The House was in recess until March 18. Consider contacting your legislator and expressing your opposition to these bills. Source: *The Capitol Report, Illinois Planned Parenthood Council*

## AIDS program at ISU

The Minority Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention and the Women's Wellness Initiative at ISU recently sponsored a three day training on HIV/AIDS in the African American community. Funding for the program was provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Prevention Community Planning Group, and the Women's Wellness Initiative and the American Red Cross Illinois Statewide HIV/AIDS Network.

According to Dwight Hunter, of the Chicago Dept. of Public Health, the black community presents special challenges and obstacles to HIV/AIDS education because certain cultural differences can impede understanding. Among those barriers can be distrust of the government and its testing programs and homophobia. The conference was attended by healthcare professionals and social workers. According to Hunter "what we're trying to do is empower people to return to their own community with a culturally sensitive response to what is happening and to share this information. Often it really helps to have someone from your own community do this. The goal is to get information out to individuals so they can hear and understand and act on this."

Hunter pointed out that the black community is especially vulnerable to HIV/AIDS when the world first became aware of it not only because many blacks live in poor communities where intravenous drug use and sex for money is common, but because of common misconceptions. For example, the disease was originally most strongly linked to the gay white community, so many blacks failed to take necessary precautions. And when scientists speculated the disease originated in Africa, many blacks became bitter and angry because it appeared as if they were being blamed for the problem. Source: *Pantagraph*

## Supreme Court strikes down Ohio abortion ban

In a limited victory for pro-choice advocates, the Supreme Court has effectively killed an Ohio law that restricted women from getting abortions late in pregnancy and banned the so called "partial birth" procedure. The court's 6-3 vote is not a ruling and sets no national precedent, and it does not prevent the justices from hearing the same issues in the future. But the three dissenting justices warned that the validity of similar laws in other states might now be in doubt.

Roger Evans, litigation director for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America said lower-court judges who have examined laws in 13 states that bar the so-called partial-birth procedure "have uniformly agreed that these laws pose an unconstitutional threat to women's health and sound medical practice."

Rep. Charles Canady, a prime sponsor of a similar bill on the federal level, said the Supreme Court's action would not affect his legislation – or those state laws for which it is a model – because its wording is different from the Ohio law. He noted that the lower court that invalidated the Ohio law explicitly stated it had no opinion of the constitutionality of the language in the proposed federal law.

Thirty-eight states limit abortions once a fetus is able to live outside the womb, which usually occurs between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy. Nineteen of those states specifically restrict the D & X procedure (the medical name for the procedure). The Ohio law, passed in 1995, allowed no abortions once a fetus is capable of living outside the womb unless a doctor, using sound medical judgment, finds it necessary to prevent a pregnant woman's death or permanent impairment of a bodily function of the woman.

In addition, the Ohio law sought to "prevent unnecessary cruelty to the human fetus" by barring the dilation and extraction (D&X) method of abortion. The law was immediately challenged by a doctor and a company that runs three clinics. A Cincinnati-based federal appeals panel concluded that the D&X ban was so broadly worded that it unconstitutionally applied to the most common procedure used in early abortions. In addition, the panel said that Ohio's limitations of late-pregnancy abortions was too vague and lacked an exception that protects the mental health of the mother. Source: *Chicago Tribune*

## Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

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# Choice

## The candidates for November

### U.S. Senate:

Carol Moseley-Braun – pro-choice  
Peter Fitzgerald – anti-choice

### 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional:

Laurel Lunt-Prussing – pro-choice  
Tom Ewing – anti-choice

### Governor's race:

Glenn Poshard – anti-choice, opposes family planning programs  
George Ryan – anti-choice but has supported Family planning programs

### Lt. Governor:

Mary Lou Kearns – pro-choice  
Corinne Wood – pro-choice

### Attorney General

Miriam Santos – pro-choice  
Jim Ryan – anti-choice

### Secretary of State:

Jesse White – pro-choice  
Al Salvi – anti-choice

### Comptroller:

Dan Hynes – pro-choice  
Chris Lauzen – unknown at this time

### Treasurer:

Daniel J. McLaughlin – pro-choice  
Judy Baar Topinka – anti-choice

## Portugal opens up abortion access

Portugal's parliament recently approved a landmark measure to give women greater access to abortion. Lawmakers voted 116-107 to allow abortions on request up to the 10<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy. The measure will take effect in 90 days unless opponents can find a way to block it. The law in that predominantly Roman Catholic country permits abortions only for strict medical reasons, including fetus malformation or perceived risk to the mother's life.

Source: *Rockford Register Star*

## Clinic suspect remains at large

Eric Robert Rudolph is officially a suspect in the February bombing at The New Woman All Women Health Care Clinic. The bombing claimed the life of Robert Sanderson, an off-duty police officer who also worked as a

security guard at the clinic. Seriously injured was Emily Lyons, a clinic nurse. Rudolph was initially being sought as a material witness after it was reported that his truck was seen driving away from the clinic in Birmingham. An organization calling itself "The Army of God" has claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Rudolph's truck was seen leaving the scene of the bombing. The truck was later found abandoned in south of Murphy, North Carolina. A search of Rudolph's home, storage locker and truck offered evidence linking him to the bombing.

Although officials have not formally stated that the bombing is linked to the bombings of a gay bar and an abortion clinic in Atlanta, Georgia. The bombs were all similar, nail laden, homemade devices held in some sort of package. The Army of God also claimed responsibility for those bombings.

Source: *Chicago Tribune, U.S.A. Today, The Pantagraph*

## Dr. David Satcher confirmed as Surgeon General

The U.S. Senate easily confirmed Dr. David Satcher as U.S. Surgeon General. In confirming Satcher, the Senate brushed aside complaints about his views on abortion (he's pro-choice) and AIDS-related research.



In the 63-35 vote to approve President Clinton's second nominee for the job in the last three years, more than a third of the Senate's Republicans joined the majority. The nomination had to overcome opponents' charges that Satcher favored late-term abortions, sponsored ethically questionable AIDS research abroad, and backed needle-exchange programs for drug abusers.

Just before voting to confirm Satcher, the Senate by an even wider 75-23 margin broke up a week long filibuster that had stalled the nomination. On the final vote, 44 Democrats and 19 Republicans supported the nominee, while 35 Republicans opposed it. Both Carol Moseley-Braun and Dick Durbin voted in favor of confirmation.

**cont. on next page**



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## V for C cont.

Satcher had served as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since 1993. He was president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn.; professor and chairman of community and family medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine; interim dean of family medicine at King-Drew Medical Center, Los Angeles, 1977-1979.

Source: *The Pantagraph*

## President concerned about WIC's future

President Clinton has signed legislation to pay for modernizing meat and poultry inspections, but is expressing disappointment that the same legislation doesn't allow for expansion of a vital federal nutrition program.

The fiscal 1998 appropriations bill provides \$13.6 billion for the Agriculture Department and the Food and Drug Administration, and \$35.3 billion for food stamps, the child nutrition program, the Commodity Credit Corporation and other programs.

Clinton had requested \$4.1 billion to serve 7.5 million people enrolled in the program for Women, Infants and Children, or WIC in fiscal 1998. But Congress provided \$3.9 billion to serve 7.4 million.

"Full participation in WIC is one of my highest priorities, and the funding level that this act provides does not assure that we can achieve this goal," Clinton said.

Bob Keller, executive director of the McLean County Health Department, said it's too soon to tell if that action will have any impact locally. McLean County has a WIC caseload of nearly 2,000. "If there's not additional funds available, the assumption is we'll pretty much have to maintain the status quo or we might have to cap case loads at the 1,800 level," Keller said.

Source: *Pantagraph*

## Hate groups using the Internet

Hate groups are on the rise, boosted by the Internet and white-power rock music. In its quarterly report on extremist organizations, the Southern Poverty Law Center said last month that it counted 474 hate groups nationwide in 1997, a 20 percent increase over 1996. Some of the groups have Web pages.

"It's cheap, it's efficient, it gives you instant communication," project director Joe Roy said. "You can reach anywhere with it. It's a great format to communicate, vent your frustrations." Among the groups cited in the report was Resistance Records, a company that distributes CDs with racially tinged lyrics. The report called Resistance Records one of the more sophisticated hate groups. "you look at their magazine, the albums and they're very professional," extremist-group expert Michael Barkun said in the report. Executives of the company did not respond to requests for interviews.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, founded in the 1970s to battle discrimination against minorities, won major legal fights against the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups. A separate report by two gay advocacy groups said anti-gay violence and harassment increased nationwide by 2 percent last year in 14 areas around the country.

There were 2,445 documented cases of anti-gay violence and harassment last year in the 14 areas, according to the report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs and the New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

A number of hate crimes or threats linked to hate groups were reported in Illinois in 1997, this according to the Southern Poverty Law Center's 1997 "Year in Hate" special report. Among the 35 Illinois incidents included in the report were several in central Illinois. In Normal, racist graffiti targeting the black student union was spray painted at Illinois State University in September.

In Pekin a black youth was allegedly beaten by a white man who used racial slurs. Daniel A Crigger was arrested on charges of hate crime and aggravated battery (August, 1997).

In April a racial epithet was spray-pointed on the garage at a white man's residence. Also in April, in Springfield, Douglas Nitz was convicted of a hate crime for yelling racial epithets at a black woman.

In February, in Urbana, a white student, Adam Lawrence, was sentenced to two years' probation and ordered to perform community service and pay court costs for tripping a black student while calling her a racial epithet.

Also in Urbana, two acts in October. First, Ralph Williamson was sentenced to three years in prison for brandishing a knife and yelling racial slurs at a black man talking to a white woman. Brian Hesterberg, a self-proclaimed Klan member, and Brian Blankenship, were charged with a hate crime for allegedly calling a black man a racial epithet and chasing him with a baseball bat. Earlier in the year Hesterberg and Blankenship had been charged with a hate crime for verbally assaulting a black man in a car and calling him racial epithets.

In Kewanee a white supremacist slogan was written on the office door of the director of multicultural affairs at Black Hawk College East. In Kankakee four black people in a car were run off the road by two white men in a car who were yelling racial slurs.

Source: *Intelligence Report: The Southern Poverty Law Center*

## Domestic violence laws toughened

The Illinois House has passed a bill amending the state's home invasion statute to cover people under court-issued orders of protection. Representative Bill Brady sponsored the bill and states that the change "will make clear that a violator does in fact qualify for home invasion even if he or she has possession of the property. The bill must be approved by the senate.

Source: *Pantagraph*

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# Kaz shopping cart theory

Hi Kids!

It's Kaz calling to wish you a happy spring! Although at writing time it still looks and feels an awful lot like winter, soon enough the leaves will be budding, birds will be chirping, and love will be in the air.

Of course, this being the first spring I've been single in a long time, I fall into the category of those who ask "O.K., where's love at?"

Well let's take a little tour for singles; we'll start with bars. Bars are fun social places to drink, see a band, and strike up a conversation. But as far as far as a place to meet your life-long soul-mate? Well, if your dream of the ultimate mate is a drunk college girl who giggles at everything you say (including when your serious) and who will probably throw-up on you after you walk her home, well this is the place.

Next we'll go to a supermarket, yes, a supermarket. Everyone must eat and you can always tell whose single and whose taken. It's what I call the "Kaz shopping cart theory," as a rule the fuller the cart, the closer you get to a married person. What you want is a small cart filled with a small carton of milk, fat free and low fat snacks (single women always buy that shit) a six pack of beer, and the clincher (male

or female) the frozen pizza. But don't get confused; both sexes, either single or married, buy baking needs, fresh fruits, and vegetables, etc. Stay away from carts filled with diapers, baby food, and industrial packaged toilet paper (i.e. the 24 pack) this always means "taken."

Your method of approach is way less threatening in a supermarket than in a bar. A simple question that says "I'm single" and saves you from being obtrusive is the ole "Sorry to bother you, but can you put this in the microwave?"

Well, last and least are the human want ads in the paper. For yucks I checked these out--not to imply that these people are dregs, they're probably decent single people, but they sure are picky for someone putting an ad in the paper.

I like how everybody wants someone with "a sense of humor." There was not one ad that did not state this. Well no duh, people. My rule is stay away from "Christian," "must like kids," and anyone who wants "non-smoker" or "non-drinker." Lighten up! No wonder your alone! Also, how come these people only put their good qualities in their ads? Sure, you'll find out their bad qualities soon enough, but how about some honesty?


Well here's my honest ad.

"Single male, late 20's early 30's. Hobbies include watching sports, drinking, smoking and playing my bass all night long. Looking for a woman willing to put up w/said hobbies"

I'm sure I'll get plenty of responses. Until next time...

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# Underground BarflyRe-reviews

Hello again, fellow barflies! It is I, the Underground Barfly back to tell you which bars suck and which ones are cool so you don't have to waste your time getting drunk at some dive--then again, if your drunk, it really wouldn't matter, would it?

As a barfly, you know that you cannot really judge a bar on just one, or even two, visits; which is why I have decided to re-review the places I have previously done. What d'ya think a'that? I think, since I have heard so much about how it has changed, I will do The Gallery first. And awaaay we go.....

## The Gallery

In my last review about The Gallery, in the April/May 1997 issue of the Post, I gave it a "thumbs up" and called it "a dump" with "charm." Kinda hit the nail on the head, but that was fine by me. I liked "Freak City."

I was out of town for a while, and when I had returned I heard that it had changed and that the change was bad. I heard, from some pretty reliable sources that the ol' Gallery was turning into a real dump and a not so fun place to go anymore. I took this with a grain of salt, but I must admit that I was in no hurry to check out the new undesirable Gallery--that is until I heard about the new furniture....

Yes folks, new furniture! This also got the nose-turn-up from everyone I talked to, but now I was intrigued. So as fate would have it, one evening, quite by accident, I happened to stop at The Gallery and to my surprise I saw what looked like an indoor beer garden--save the fresh air--picnic tables and all! There was even graffiti on the tables of various wits and inks, but I suppose that is to be expected on picnic tables at The Gallery--or anywhere, for that matter.

I thought it was pretty cool. I really liked it. I didn't see how it made the place look any dumpier or lose any of that original Gallery charm that has lasted for about as long as this newspaper! I was surprised that Gallery Freaks I had known for a long time were

insulting the place, but I suppose the fact that they were still going there says more than I can say about that. Cheers to The Gallery and The Gallery Freaks: The bar that will never die, and the Freaks who just get Freakier!!!

I suppose I should also mention the new paint jobs at The Gallery. This is basically filler, because anybody who has been to The Gallery in the past two or three years has probably seen about thirty paint new paint jobs. Of course, I'm exaggerating, but you get my point. It doesn't change my love for the place. Long live The Gallery!!!

## Lizard's Lounge

In my last review about Lizard's Lounge way back in the February/March 1997 Underground Barfly, I described it as a sort of "'90's beatnik joint." I also mentioned that their "selection of alcoholic beverages is pretty good." I really didn't mention much about live music because it seemed that there really wasn't much to mention. Compared to now, Lizard's Lounge was a relatively new bar, with excellent potential, looking for a niche in a booming town.

That was over a year ago, and since then L.L. has found its niche as one of the premier places to see bands in B.N. Every weekend, and sometimes during the week, there is some band playing. Lizard's books everything from The Heatersons, to The Spelunkers, to 3rd Sunday Market (and they even did Postapalooza)! I like that! That is what this town needs! More places that support the arts!

I said in my last review that their "selection of alcoholic beverages was pretty good." Well, over time that, too, has changed. Lizard's has expounded on their selection of just about every thing. Did you know that there is a beer made out of pot seeds? Pretty strange, eh? I didn't taste it, so I can't give you any sort of reference as to taste, but it does sound intriguing, yes? And that is just one of the many additions of strange new beers. Their selection of the hard stuff is still first rate with at least one nice addition of Glenlevitt (that's very good scotch, by the way).

I think something else about Lizard's Lounge changes over the past while that bears mentioning is the difference in specials. In my last review I mentioned that the prices of drinks might be a little high, but the weekly specials adequately made up for it. Well, if they were special back then they must be extra special now. With the Thursday special of \$1 pitchers and 50c well drinks for a \$3 cover, I am impressed. I won't tell you any more of the weekly specials because I don't want to sound like an advertisement, but I must admit that it is an impressive special.

Lizard's Lounge has come a long way since my last review. Congratulations, and welcome to B.N.!

## Fat Jack's

It wasn't that long ago that I reviewed Fat Jack's (December/January 1997-98), but my last visit was a short one, and I guess I felt, after reading the review, that they deserved another one. On my last visit I made the mistake of going in with some pre-conceived idea about what to expect: "...I feared...that it would attract the pretentious and the pretentious wannabes... my fears became a reality." This time I went with an open mind and the desire to just have a couple drinks. And this is what I saw....

The last time I went, it was pretty crowded, which was kind of a drag; it's difficult to review a bar, especially a new one, when it's all elbows and assholes. This time I ended up being there kind of late and it really wasn't that crowded--I could really get a good look at the place.

I sat down with my friend and ordered a pint of guinness, which was pretty nice and smooth. I'm usually not a guinness man, but this time it hit the spot. The other stuff they had on tap was your usual ales, and stouts and stuff like that. I didn't see anything like Budwieser or Miller or anything like that on tap, though I did see a man drinking a bottle of some American beer. As far as their the hard stuff, they have a pretty good selection of single malt scotches and the other usual stuff that you'll

the lavender







find in almost any bar in B.N.

There is a nice room off to the side of the bar where a person can sit down on one of the plush chairs and have a cigar and listen to the grand piano. There are also two pool tables if you would like to have a drink, a cigar, and shoot a game of billiards.

All in all, I would call Fat Jack's a pretty classy place. Definitely not your usual go-to-a-bar-and-get-wasted club. The Underground Barfly gives Fat Jack's a classy thumbsup.

And with that, if I can, I will bid the barflies of the Post Amerikan's firing range happy drinking. And remember, if you're too drunk to drive, like my ol'man use to say, walkin' ain't crowded! At least not yet.... And I suppose if it does get crowded you could always crawl. This is the Underground Barfly, signing off!



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# Makes No Sense - Editorial on the Unabomber Case



But if Kaczynski truly suffers from a severe mental illness, should his choices really have been life in prison or death? There are two reasons that might give us pause to wonder.

The first is that paranoid schizophrenia, like manic depression, can sometimes lead to criminal or violent behavior during a psychotic episode. But both disorders can sometimes be treated effectively with medication and psychotherapy. If successfully treated, Kaczynski might spend the rest of his life behind bars completely sane.

The second is that schizophrenia is a brain disease. Is Kaczynski any more morally responsible for his acts than a person who becomes impulsive or damaging after a damaging blow to the head?

A famous early report of such a case was a responsible, likable railroad foreman named Phineas Gage. In 1848, an explosion sent a metal bar of more than an inch in diameter through his skull. Miraculously he lived, and he showed few of the characteristics people typically associate with brain damage. Yet, the personality that came to inhabit his body was no longer Gage.

Gage, or his new incarnation, was now a socially inappropriate, impulsive, self-centered man, who could not keep a job or sustain a relationship. And neurologists have seen many Gages in the intervening century and a half.

We impose criminal penalties on people who break the law to punish them, deter others, protect society, and if possible, to rehabilitate them.

When a criminal is clearly psychotic, the major criterion in assigning his penalty should be his danger to society. We find it much harder to forgive a killer with a diseased brain than to forgive a patient with heart disease whose collapse at the wheel kills a pedestrian.

Emotionally, it's difficult to ignore the intent that intervenes between the disease and the act, when the diseased organ is the brain rather than the heart.

But if Kaczynski is in fact psychotic, his brain is no more intact than that of Phineas Gage. The only difference is that the damage to Gage's soul came from a blow to the head. Whereas, for Kaczynski, the culprit was likely a blow to the chromosomes.

If he's psychotic then, the major question should be whether he's treatable and whether society could be assured of his lifelong compliance with treatment if he were ever released. In Kaczynski's case, we'll never know.

Drew Weston is chief psychologist at the Cambridge Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts

(excerpted from a National Public Radio transcript)

By Drew Weston, Cambridge; Linda Wertheimer, Washington, DC.

## HIGHLIGHT:

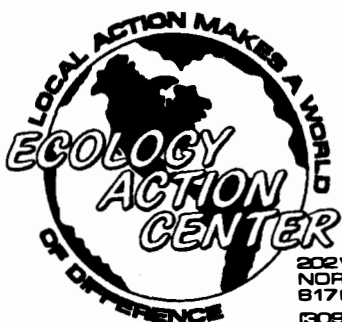
Psychologist and commentator Drew Weston -- although he is relieved that we know the identity of the Unabomber -- is concerned about the idea of a paranoid schizophrenic spending his life in jail. He notes that paranoid schizophrenia is one of the most treatable mental disorders, and that it is a brain disease that in effect makes Kaczynski less culpable for his actions.

LINDA WERTHEIMER, HOST: Many people are comforted knowing that the Unabomber is going to jail for a very long time.

Commentator and psychologist Drew Weston shares those feeling, but is also troubled that a paranoid schizophrenic has been given a life sentence.

DREW WESTON, COMMENTATOR: As an academic and a colleague of one of the Unabomber's targets, I can remember a few paranoid moments of my own when I received a strange package in the mail without a return address, only to find that my mother had run out of return address labels. But as a psychologist, I wonder if this case shouldn't lead us to rethink some of the ways we address mental illness in the courts.

Kaczynski apparently chose to plead guilty because he couldn't endure the thought of hearing evidence of his mental illness in court. It's worth noting that ardent denial of having any illness is one of the symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia.



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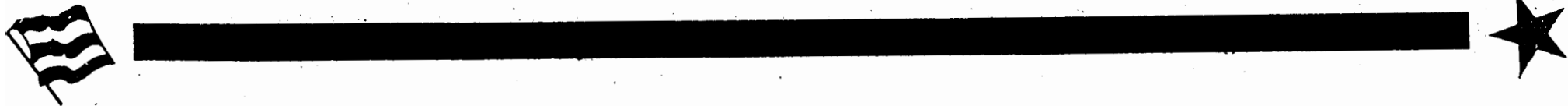
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## Involuntary Commitment Summit in Illinois may make Roby-like situation things of the past.

Shirley Allen's refusal to submit to a psychiatric exam translates into a six-week police standoff, seven weeks of forced hospitalization and roughly \$45,000 in bills.

Critics shake their heads.

In northern Illinois, the courts refuse to commit a man with a decade of mental problems. In a paranoid rage, he later shoots and kills two family members.

Critics shake their heads.

It's those two extremes that shape the debate about Illinois' mental health commitment laws and have led to the scheduling in February of a summit on the issue to include teachers, patient advocates, lawmakers and others.

"Their could be some legislation being introduced in this (spring) session," says Randy Wells. Citing the public outcry over the Allen ordeal. "This is not the type of legislation that you want to craft hastily."

In Allen's case, her family convinced a Christian County judge to force her to submit to a psychiatric exam because they feared she was becoming dangerously delusional.

But Allen wasn't asked. Instead, the judge issued an order for sheriff's deputies to detain her and take her to a Springfield hospital.

The shotgun-wielding Allen didn't want to go, so, despite having the power and water shut off at her rural Roby home, she held police off for 39 days.

Under Illinois law, people can be involuntarily committed if they're deemed a danger to society or themselves. To prove that to a judge, prosecutors must have at least two psychiatric exams stating that their person fits the legal guidelines. And, before being committed, he or she has a right to a hearing and a legal defense.

But many times, those facing committal don't want to undergo exams, or they may be perceived as being too dangerous to approach.



So a judge can order police to detain the person.

Allen recently said that, had she been sent a summons to appear in court, she would have gone without a fuss.

"The way they're doing it now...anybody that doesn't like you can go to a judge and say you're mentally incompetent or something, and he'll write a petition for a D&E (detention and evaluation), and you're stuck with it," Allen said

Though free now, the fate of Allen, 51, is still being decided by the courts. She spent 47 days in mental hospitals until her release Dec. 16, when a psychiatrist determined she was not a danger.

Allen was scheduled to undergo another psychiatric exam Thursday. Based on that exam, prosecutors could push for committal, for up to 180 days, or drop the case.

"It may be days or weeks before I get his (the psychiatrist's) written report," said Christian County State's Attorney Teresa Brown.

Allen has admitted believing that her house was bugged and helicopters spied on her, but she maintains that she is not mentally ill. And she has said that, throughout her hospital stay, she never took medication - her right under Illinois law.

But that right may have backfired for a 41-year-old Aurora man, Jerry Piazza, in June 1996.

Piazza fatally shot his father and brother, capping a 10-year slide into paranoia and schizophrenia,

Although Piazza had been hospitalized five times, his condition never met the strict guidelines of having someone committed. So, he was free to leave the hospital as long as he promised to take his medication.

His mother, Norma, said he rarely did.

In the meantime, his bouts with the disease led him to frequently assault his parents. That prompted a domestic battery charge, in which Piazza spent two weeks in jail in April 1996.

But he refused to take his medication and was released from custody before a court-ordered psychiatric exam. He never showed for the exam and, a week later, shot his father and brother. He was captured after a three-hour standoff with police.

Norma Piazza has stood by her son as his case winds its way through the legal system. She also has spent the past year advocating for mental health laws - through the Alliance for Mentally Ill - that would permit forced treatment.



"You don't want to trample over people's rights, but what do you tell Norma Piazza?" Wells said. "Her husband and other son had civil rights, too."

And therein lies the debate for next month's summit.

"We'll look at Illinois' statute. Does it work? Not work? Do we need to do something drastic as rewrite this statute, or do we need to do some ... tweaking and do some changes on implementation of the law?" Wells said.

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# Proposed Organic rule is unacceptable Your comments needed

USDA has proposed national organic standards regulations ("Rule") as required by the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990. Thousands of comments are needed by May 1, 1998 to ensure that USDA creates an acceptable program. The Rule needs a complete overhaul, and you need to tell USDA how to do it. Tell USDA to:

**1. Adhere to NOSB National List recommendations!** Congress granted the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) special power to determine a small universe of synthetics (like insect pheromones) to be allowed in organic production. The NOSB includes organic, environmental and consumer reps and has expertise credibility and legal authority to make these important and often controversial decisions. But the rule ignores NOSB recommendations, usurps its authority, and changes definitions to give USDA broad latitude to loosen the standards on what materials are allowed in organic production. Tell USDA to write the rule according to NOSB recommendations and recognize the NOSB's authority. [205.20-205.28]

## 2. Eliminate unwanted materials from organic production!

Broad categories of materials prohibited by the NOSB were allowed by USDA. Tell USDA that genetically engineered organisms (GEO's) and their products are synthetic prohibited materials and that you don't want them. Tell USDA that sewage sludge and ionizing radiation (irradiation) are unacceptable and would, along with GEO's place U.S. standards in conflict with existing industry practice, consumer expectations, and international trade and standards.

[205.2, 205.7-205.9, 205.22, 205.26, 205.17]

## 3. Require higher standards for livestock!

USDA waters down standards recommended by the NOSB (which said that animals must have access to the outdoors, prohibits refeeding of animal parts and manure, severely limits the use of antibiotics, and requires organic feed). USDA would allow 20% non-organic feed, confinement operations, and liberal drug use. Tell USDA to adhere to NOSB recommendations.

[205.13-205.15, 205.22, 205.24]

## 4. Don't price small farms and small-scale certifiers out of business!

Although NOSB recommended that USDA not penalize small farmers, certifiers, and processors, USDA proposes a regressive flat fee for certification and registration. This means that small scale certifiers, farmers, and processors will pay a disproportionate share. Tell USDA to use a sliding fee system and reduce the impact on small operators.

[205.421-205.424.]

## 5. Stay out of eco-label business!

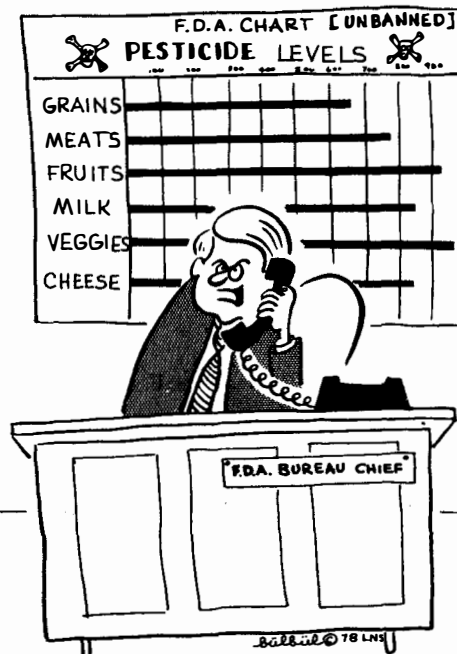
Surprisingly, USDA proposes to prohibit an untold number of "green" labels in the name of protecting consumers. Such labels could include pesticide-free, no antibiotics or hormones, ecologically produced, humanely raised, H'M grown, etc. Tell USDA to stick with organic, as the law requires, and leave other "green" labeling alone.

[205.103]

Please send your comments to:  
Docket No. TMD-94-00-2  
Eileen Stommes, Deputy Administrator,  
USDA-AMS-TM-NOP  
Room 4007-So.  
Ag Stop 0275  
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Also, please send a copy to your local Senators and Representative

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# We are not making this up

## Reinventing government I:

The Office of Special Counsel is supposed to investigate complaints concerning the mistreatment of whistle blowers, and then try reprisal cases before the Merits System Protection Board. According to *Insight* magazine, the last time the OSC tried a case was in 1979. It lost.

## Reinventing government II:

Several years ago, the GAO uncovered \$3.5 million in non-competitive orders being issued "without the required justification and approval." The GAO complained that the Navy "did not obtain savings normally

achieved through consolidation of requirements and competitive award processes." Turns out that the contracts were for "total quality management implementation," and in a number of instances promised "world class operations."

Hillary Clinton and top aides at the White House told House investigators looking into the travel office and FBI file scandals that they couldn't remember, didn't recall, and similar things over 3,700 items.

Compared to when Clinton took office there are now 62 fewer Democrats in the House, 12 fewer in the Senate, over 500 more Republicans in state houses, and 13 fewer Democratic governors. Besides, 353 elected Democrats have switched to the Republican Party.

--The Progressive Review  
No. 353 Feb. 1998

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# New World Nazis

Do you want to talk about race? Really chit-chat about its importance? Then I submit the following for your consideration.

I can't say I'm glad our foreparents practiced slavery. I wouldn't wish that institution on any being, not even my enemy. What I believe benefits us today, though, is that our foreparents picked a group of people with different skin color and cultural values. Racism has made America stronger. We won't be sweeping that bit of dirtiness under the rug any time soon. I've got to go a long way to make my points, so don't freak out--keep reading.

To begin with, was slavery wrong? Yes. Were the founding parents responsible for their actions? No. They didn't believe they were doing anything wrong. Even today, our society takes into consideration the state of mind when deciding moral and legal issues. Three hundred years ago, the European mind set was radically different from ours. Illiteracy was the rule, not the exception, cultural segregation a way of life. Whether burning some person at the stake or putting people in chains, many Europeans believed in their hearts that they were doing the right thing.

## People had different mind-sets

In considering history, we should view it through the people who lived it before judging the times with modern eyes. A different mind set existed during the time of our foreparents. Around the American Revolution period, slavery was a common practice. Europeans considered themselves civilized, technologically upperly-mobile, masters of science, and God-fearing (that was real darn important back then, the right God). To them, Native Americans were savages. Blacks, too, who were chosen mainly because they had a different skin color, could only benefit from enslavement if just to correct their heathen ways. This prevalent mind set, sometimes its myth of superiority, supported the institution of slavery. An institution vigorously passed on from parent to child. Some ruins of it still exist.

Still, how could our foreparents be so blind to the utter inhumanity of enslaving other beings? How could they believe they were more evolved? Created higher than others? Simply, they believed it to be true. It was the way of things, natural. The cultural mind set of our foreparents permitted the atrocity.

## Shaving v. not-shaving

Mind sets are very subtle, but powerful systems of belief. Let's look at a current one: leg and underarm shaving. Women began this cosmetic practice in the twenties. According to a research article in *Women's Issues*, it resulted from male advertisement campaigns. Women were showing more of their bodies. *Hey, let's sell-em razors.* What might have started a fashion fad became a thoroughly-entrenched more.

## Comparing social mores

I'm not saying that shaving and slavery are equal; one's a crime, the other is not. My point is how easy and accepted a social behavior can become within a culture. How many women do you know who don't put a razor to their skin? How many men are turned off by hairy female legs? How many women are taught by their mothers and sisters, via example, to paint their nails and shave, etc. This cosmetic behavior is strongly reinforced by male expectation of how women should behave in our society. These little things support bigger discriminations. At the cleaners, a blouse might be a dollar more than a quote-unquote shirt. Many women get paid less for the same job that men do. Sure, nobody is going to throw you in the oven or jail for shaving, but the logic is the same. Slavery was a respectable trade back then; let's not be too hard on the founding parents. They knew very little about the bigger world, and, to them, slavery was no more unordinary than modern cosmetic mores are to us.

I'm proud of the Europeans who settled this country. They were brave, rugged, determined people. I will not hold them responsible for the crime of slavery. Don't forget, too, that despite the mind set of the era, there were Europeans who raised their voices, who stood up and said, "Yes, we know it's how things are, but slavery is wrong!" Slaves did not take back their freedom alone; many Europeans died in the cause.

And we won't forget because people of color will remind us. Humans are good at forgetting history, too. America got built on the backs of oppressed people, slaves, indentured servants, etc. People came to the New World with hope that they could be free of tyranny and love God their way without the boot of a Euro Uncle Sam on their necks. Yet they got to the New World and, next thing we know, they were behaving like Nazis. While early American government didn't succeed in total genocide, the effective methods of biological and conventional warfare, economical sanctioning, and geological isolation reduced the Native American nations, over 250 tribes, to cultural ashes. We'd better not forget it. Ever.

## Turning the tables

Skin color helps America to remember its ugly, Nazi-like past. If the early Americans had chosen whites to enslave instead of blacks, what would it be like today? There would be fewer civil rights, I believe. The American government wouldn't think twice about romping around the world. *Yeah, don't worry about it. They are not like us, anyway. We're better. Let's get-em.* Well, we won't sweep slavery or genocide under the rug of time. At the very least, skin color has kept the idea of equality fresh in everyone's mind. Why are these reminders important? Because we'd do it again. Behave like Nazis or keep a foot on women's necks or keep poor people in a class rut.

It's important to remember the past. Just ask the Jews.

Today, America doesn't have the excuse of ignorance. All humans are equal beings. Unlike mythical beliefs of our recent past, there are no subspecies. No superhuman race. Science has proven that biologically we all belong to homo sapien. That a child born to a jungle Korowai tribe is as viable and human as a child born to a U.S. Presidential family. The sophism of racism, discrimination, and human prejudice ought to die in the sunshine of reason.

## Fight prejudice with diversity

But it doesn't. America--people in general--needs constant reminders. We are entirely dependent on nature, and, if humans are subjected to the right circumstances, we can do horrible, vile things to each other. The mass media can whip people into a frenzy if we're not careful. The government can load its planes with bombs, push some buttons, and murder lots of people. Point being: only diversity, reason, and tolerance can stop the machine.

Race and discrimination issues have raised our consciousness, made us a better country. They may seem like a pain in the rear, but worth it. Forgetting is too easy. Equality is so important that our foreparents wrote it down. Amendments were made to the Constitution. When the community isn't vigilant and tolerant, it has a way of breeding Nazis. See, America has already practiced genocide in its past.

## It takes a village

We know the government is watching us, let's be sure we're watching it, too. The next time you see a black man, instead of wondering if he's going to rob you, try thinking about how wonderful freedom is and the vigilance required to keep it healthy, because single individuals or small groups can't execute genocide. It takes a whole culture to do that.

--Phillip Camus



## Great Bear in Leroy

Following is a list of upcoming events inspired by Native American culture and spirituality:

On April 18 and 19 a Native American teacher named Great Bear will be leading a workshop on "The Roots of Natural Healing" in Leroy, Illinois.

Great Bear is an accomplished ceremonialist, storyteller, poet, bodyworker, healer and artist. Her teachers have been the elders and medicine people of Native American culture, including Cherokee, Navajo, Salish and Apache.

She has taught and led ceremonies throughout North America and across the waters in Europe and Scandinavia.

Cost for the workshop is \$165.00 For more information call Kim Ryburn at (309) 724-8277.

On May 30-31 the Homecoming of the Kickapoo Nation Pow Wow will be held northeast of Leroy. Bill Emmett, one of the organizers of the Pow Wow told me "The Grand Village of the Kickapoo nation was their main village for over one hundred years. It's on the National Register of Historic Sites. This will be the first time the nation has been back together in Illinois in 166 years. So it will be quite an historic event."

For more information Bill Emmett can be reached at (309) 962-2700.

The return to Pimiteoni Intertribal Pow Wow will be held on June 13 and 14 at W. H. Sommer park near Peoria. Watch for further publicity.

Such events give a person a chance to be a part of a sacred circle and to experience a Way of Life whose roots go deep into the Earth Mother.

For the wisdom, for the beauty and for the healing, go if you can. You will not come away unmoved.

--Gregg Brown

# The face on Mars

On March 27 ABC News reported a NASA announcement that they have decided to direct the satellite currently orbiting Mars to take high resolution photographs of the Cydonia region where the controversial feature known as the Face-on-mars is located. The main controversy, of course, is whether that feature the other unusual features adjacent to it, are natural formations or are artificially constructed.

Art Bell, on his radio talk show, has been interviewing some of the most important people involved on both sides of the issue. He has been reporting the tremendous struggle that has been going on behind the scenes at very high levels of science and government.

On March 17, Bell interviewed Dr. Tom Vanflander, a highly respected scientist with a doctorate from Harvard, who said that the recently gathered evidence has convinced him that there is a high probability that the face and surrounding features are, in fact, artificially constructed objects.

Perhaps the most important piece of new evidence, in Vanflander's view, are the recent computer enhancements of the original 1976 photos taken by the Viking orbiter. The face was partly in shadow so that only half the face was actually visible. The idea was that if you could see the area in shadow, only if the feature was artificial would it present the bilateral symmetry that we recognize as being truly facial. Random natural processes would not be at all likely to display such symmetry.

When the computer enhancement was done, the face stared back, bilaterally symmetrical. Vanflander told Bell's audience to basically get ready for change, because this society's world-view was about to shift.

NASA's announcement that new photos of the region will be taken and released to the public means that we may very well be on the verge of something monumental.

Of course, if the photos come back showing only natural features, so be it. It could be either way.

The important thing is that the truth be told. If it means paradigm shift, let the shifting begin.

Art Bell was following this story and talking to the people involved when almost no one else in the media would take it seriously. If you are at all interested in this, my suggestion to you is to tune him in. And this is only one of the many issues that Bell and his guests are exploring.

Three of the broad topics he deals with constantly are the condition of the natural world, the UFO mystery, and spirituality/consciousness expansion.

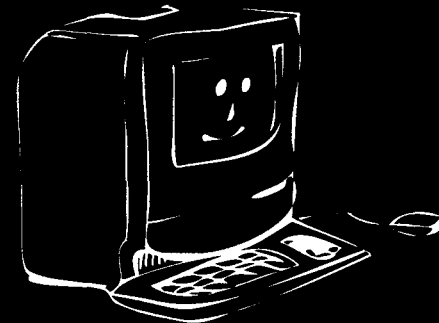
And his commentary on the world situation, to say the least, puts a different slant on things. Listening to him and his guests is like going to school on a roller coaster. It is exhilarating and profound.

He is broadcast on WJBC AM 1230 every night from midnight to 4am and on WLS AM 890 most nights from 1am to 5am. His weekly "Dreamland" series is on WLS AM 890 every Sunday, 8 to 11pm.

Get ready to giggle, and scream and think.

--Gregg Brown

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# The Dancing Rabbit

Recently, I have brushed up against other people's tragedies in life. Frankly, I have found that at the core of the unhappiness is the mistaken notion that money will bring pleasure to life. It saddens me to think that peoples lives revolve around the "more is better" philosophy. One person told me that the only things that would make him happy in life is to be a famous movie star and/or very rich so he could retire and travel, both of which are external validations for existence and not internal ones. It reminds me of a line in a Jana Stanfield song, "Now I'm waiting for my happiness."

Happiness is here now, surrounding you daily, if you only have the eyes to see. An unhappy life can be made a happy one as well, if a person is only willing to do what it takes and change their world view.

I find that people usually are in jobs that they don't enjoy, with the goal being to make money to do or buy "things" they believe will bring them pleasure, such as big screen t.v.'s, new v.c.r.'s, a whirlwind tour of Europe (which they will be paying for months after the event) that leaves them exhausted when they get back, etc. They spend most of their waking hours to make money to pay for things that they don't usually even need at a job they don't like, and then they wonder why they feel unfilled and unhappy. Of course, the quick fix in our society is to...tah dah!...buy themselves a treat to make them feel better! Something new! And then they end up with a drawer-full of "new" unnecessary things that are given way to the Salvation Army to make room for other new unnecessary things. Things which are then paid for by hours spent at an unenjoyed job.

Question: If you died today, could you say your life was happy, satisfying, and that you have no regrets? That your life had meaning?

This isn't to say meaningful employment is necessary to a happy life, but truly *living* life is. I do believe one can find a way to spend most of the hours of the day doing things that bring some sense of pleasure, satisfaction and well-being. The problem may be that a person might experience a drop in income, possibly temporary, and this is found unacceptable to most folks. I would guess, however, that if people would just try to put more meaningful, pleasurable activities into their daily lives they would find they didn't care about having so much money. But enough about this. If you want to learn more of the nuts and bolts about fixing your finances and breaking the materialism habit, read *Your Money or Your Life* by Joe Domingues and Vicki Robin.

## Traveling to Missouri

Ah-ha. This Friday night my husband and I are leaving the kids behind (can you believe that, at 5 and 7, they had *other plans* !?!) and going to Missouri to help plant fruit trees on the land that friends of ours just purchased where

they are starting an intentional community. The residential land trust is called Dancing Rabbit, and the intent is to have an environmentally-oriented sustainable community.

These folks are of the do-it-yourself, take care of the world, lead a socially-responsible life mentality. Everyone will live off-the-grid (that means generating your own electricity and having your own water source, and not buying it from some large institution), keep the land clean and organic, and they will need to share, care and be kind.

Sounds rather idealistic, doesn't it? A utopian society? Rather naive? It is beginning to sound like heaven to me.

Many of their philosophies are ours which we have already incorporated into our family's daily lives. We live simply, don't spend a lot (though still more than we should), recycle everything including old clothes and scrap wood (reusing the fabrics after cutting them apart), make almost everything ourselves, do our own repairs, etc. My husband could build us a house from the ground up if he had to by himself, and it could be done at a fraction of the cost of most housing with recycled products and environmentally sustainable items. I could make all our clothes from the shearing the sheep on up if I needed or wanted (and have done so and intend to do again). We have and can garden and enjoy it, love making something instead of buying mass produced crap, and we have the pleasure of doing it on our own instead of spending time to make money to buy it. We believe in *living*. Our daily existence brings us joy. Bartering among friends is enjoyable. We share our time and our skills. Without much thought or effort our lives revolve very little around "consuming" goods, though we do have a tendency to spend way too much money on fast food on frantic days. We should probably own stock in Taco Bell.

For a long time we have planned on homesteading. We have been rehabbing our house, with the intent of selling it eventually, and taking that money and buying land in the country, building a house on it, and attempting to live as sustainably as possible on our own. Our hope was that, with no more old debt and no mortgage, living off-the-grid, we would need very little money to get by, so we would then spend more time growing our own food instead of earning money to buy it. We would then have more time at home together as a family and more time to pursue our obsessions in life. With me that would be art, both fiber and drawing, and for Mark it would be art as well, but in the form of woodworking. I would do births and herbalism for more money, and Mark could hire himself out for odd carpentry jobs as needed. Mostly, though, we would have time for ourselves to pursue, on a more regular basis, all things which bring us pleasure in life.

What's funny about all of this is that many people look at our lives envy already and yet we want more. *We are happy!!!* We spend much more time than most people doing things to bring us pleasure in life. What could be better? The reality is that once you figure this out for yourself, and sample the joy that life can bring, you want more. For me, a realization came that our lives are still too hectic and cluttered (as is evidenced by the money we spend eating out while on the run), and it can be simpler still so we can have more time to pursue what we enjoy. Mark works 40-45 hours a week in the winter and 60 in the summer. He is fortunate that he loves his work and his bosses, and he works with nice, decent guys (he is a carpenter). However, imagine how much happier his life would be if he didn't have to get up a 5:30am to go to work every day, coming home physically exhausted, and instead could pursue more of the type of woodworking he was really interested in, while helping build the occasional house? I, in turn, could do births with much less stress because I wouldn't have to worry about childcare during the day all the time when on call as he would usually be around more.

## More about Dancing Rabbit

Please remember that all you are reading about DR is second hand. I don't understand it all myself, and this is MY version of what is going on down there. If you look them up at their web sight or actually went and visited them, you may find that some of this is incorrect information, or a distorted view. You really should explore it on your own.

Dancing Rabbit consists of a group of people dedicated to environmental issues and sustainability. They have worked very hard for the last two years to get themselves to where they are, and there is a lot of work ahead of them. A few of the members met while attending Stanford. A couple of them lived in a mostly-student commune called Synergy while in school. Our friend Aaron met them years ago while they lived at Synergy. I think his sister lived there, and I think he moved in there for a while (a year!?) and got to know Cecil and, I think, Tony while here. Thus, the ideas of "share care and be kind" are nothing new to these guys. Halle', raised in a orthodox Jewish family, lived in Israel in a kibbutz for a year, so she is also used to this type of lifestyle.

These folks first all lived together communally in Berkeley in a group they called Skyhouse, which is still in existence in Missouri. Their group is an egalitarian community, which means that they do profit sharing (they pool all their money together instead of keeping profits separate, so no one is "rich" or "poor"... all work is of equal value) and make all decisions by consensus vote. Dancing Rabbit, however, is not associated with Skyhouse other than they are all the founding members. As a residential land trust, DR has certain



# Project

covenants that members must agree to in order to live there, and if a person chooses to repeatedly violate those agreements, they will be asked to leave. Theoretically, DR could be made up of people living communally, people living in single dwellings, and people who do profit-sharing communally or non-communally. Each person has the freedom to choose to live how he or she wants to without judgment, so long as the basic covenants aren't violated. So, if I wanted, all my friends and their families and I could live there in a commune but have our separate incomes...or live separately, but share our incomes.

People living there, though, must have a commitment to living simply, and a dedication to "doing it themselves"...and if they can't, then barter with someone else who can, or pay for their services. It is up to you. However, it is expected that each person will try to live in a manner that will have the least impact on the environment, and will recycle everything possible including reusing items in different ways or trading them with someone else. Each person will need to keep the land "organic"...i.e., not dumping anything harmful on the land, nor using pesticides and herbicides. An emphasis is placed on avoiding the use of petroleum based products including plastics.

An emphasis is also placed upon education. They hope to eventually conducted different seminars to teach others about sustainability, alternative energy, and anything else that someone wants to teach. Hopefully, down the road, they will be able to provide some "social programs" that might change a few people's lives. This summer they are starting by having interns who will learn organic gardening techniques, help build straw-bale cabins, and assist in setting up alternative energy systems for the cabins. A lot of it is back-breaking work, but all the DR people will be working just as hard, and the interns will know more about all of these things by the time they are done than I do.

For families with children, it has a lot to offer. In the future there would be other families providing a social outlet for kids, with folks homeschooling if they wish. There would be the great outdoors surrounding them for roaming and exploring, and a great pool of intelligent, creative adults to entertain and teach them things without a formal schooling atmosphere. They could learn building, gardening, woodworking, spinning, computers, mathematics, cooking, etc., while being exposed to good people who, though they share many of the same world views, may have many different viewpoints to expose them to.

## What do you mean I can't have A car!?!

There is one difficult detail for most people who ask me about DR, and I must admit it was hard for me to swallow at first. No one can privately own a gas consuming vehicle on DR land. Instead, there is a car pool. They hope

these vehicles will mostly be diesel which will eventually be able to use bio-diesel fuel they plan on making in the future, which is made out of vegetable oils...and scrap at that! One of the biggest wastes in our country is private vehicles. Most people own their own car. In a two adult household, usually there are two cars. With teenagers, there are often three or more. Think of all the expenses...gasoline, a non-renewable, highly polluting fuel; the amount of oil used; the cost for parts and repairs; the waste from these; and the fact that many people buy new ones simply to look good when getting from one place to another.

Now, imagine a life where you grew and canned most of your food, and the rest of what you bought came from a whole-foods distributor once a month, eliminating the need to fight your way through grocery stores. A life where most people earned their living in the community on the land where their home was, where running places all the time was unnecessary. You wouldn't have car insurance, you wouldn't have payments, you wouldn't have upkeep. You would just have access to a well-running vehicle at all times for when you need to get away, for a minimal per-mile fee. It would be even cheaper if you split the costs and car-pooled with someone else. This is how they view it. Less hassle in your life, less responsibilities, and much, much better for the world. Yes, you are losing a "convenience", but it really depends upon your point of view. You may not be able to hop in a vehicle and run to town for ice cream at the drop of a hat if all the cars are out (though if they are in, you could) but instead you wouldn't have all the other headaches associated with owning a car, most importantly the high costs. Calculate it out for yourself. How many hours a month do you spend at work to pay for the luxury of driving? And what things would you rather do with this time? It doesn't sound like so much of a sacrifice to own a car now, does it? The sacrifice, it seems, is giving up so much of your life to maintaining a car. In order to have your "freedom," you become a slave to your car.

## So what is the catch?

That's the greatest part of it all! There is no catch! Unlike most intentional communities, you don't need to fork over big bucks to move there. Some communities require \$10,000 for the privilege of living there. Not these guys. They want it to be open to everyone regardless of socioeconomic status. They do require a money payment, which hasn't been set yet, per month per working adult to help pay for expenses, possibly \$50 or so. On top of this, it will be required people pay 1-2% of their annual income back to DR to maintain visitor quarters, roads, special projects, buying more land, etc. I think, though, that in the beginning, members may need to help financially more to help get the land paid off, but this won't take long. I am not sure of all the details of this, though. All the decisions as to the spending of the money will be done by members of the group. You could look at this as being in lieu of rent or mortgage and renters' or home owners' insurance. Each person will eventually put up their own cabins with their own money, which they will own, but could possibly join a communal living situation. If the person decides to leave, s/he will be able to sell it to another DR member or to DR, but not at a big profit...just for the costs to build the same structure again.

How will people earn their money? Remember, it takes very little money to survive there. Many of the people interested in moving there are very resourceful already. Since we are interested in moving there, I will use us as an example. I am a midwife and will be an herbalist soon. Mark is a carpenter, can build houses, and does wonderful woodworking. We both make "great stuff" that is saleable. We should have no difficulty in being able to make what we need to survive, and have the potential to expand. Halle' and I could work as midwives together, and train other women as assistants and eventually midwives.

The idea is that people who "can do" will help provide jobs for others who may not have skills but want to live and work on the land, developing useful skills at the same time. There will be large organic gardens and potential for farmer's market business besides food for consumption. Another option being discussed is possibly some fur-producing livestock for organic fiber sales. Furniture and toys are other things that members have skill at making and for future jobs. The possibilities are endless! All it takes is a bit of ingenuity and hard work, but work that is rewarding and fun, and hopefully the goal for most people is to be doing work they love. Their vision for the future is that eventually there will be a "town" set up, where members will have shops, studios, a little library, coffee/tea house, etc., where members from the community or those from the area can stop in to browse, make purchases, etc.

Another benefit, as I see it, is that all members have an equal voice in the decision making process. Decisions are made by consensus of the group. Processing ideas and respecting others views are of major importance. Thus, if you are a member you must be willing to work things out with other people. If you and another member are having a problem, it is expected that you act like adults and work it out in a mature manner. If you can't work it out, or feel uncomfortable discussing it, or another person is having a problem with you, a mediator can be called in at any time. The job of the mediator is to help people work things out to a mutually satisfying conclusion. You don't have a choice about mediation, though, because even if you feel fine and another doesn't and that person requests mediation, you are required as a member to sit down with that person and a mediator. What could possibly be wrong with this? It does mean a commitment to honest, open communication, hopefully based upon logic and not just an emotional response.

For more information, explore Dancing Rabbit's homepage at: [www.dancingrabbit.org](http://www.dancingrabbit.org); or send them e-mail at: [dancingrabbit@ic.org](mailto:dancingrabbit@ic.org)

If don't have internet access (smart person you are!), you can call them at: (816)883-5511.

They will be happy to send you any information or answer your questions. If you are really curious about all of this, they would love to have you go for a visit! Just let them know, and they will tell you a good time to head down there.

--Marcee Murray

## Cont. next issue





# Poetry Pages

## Three Sense Dares

if you can find me  
i dare you  
to try to  
touch me  
once.

if you can see me  
i dare you  
to try to  
read me  
if you can.

if you can hear me  
i dare you  
to try to  
un-der-stand.

--David Hall

## on a nice day at the park

i paused on our walk  
beneath the skies that were put there  
to impress us. through air  
put there to renew us.

i paused to appreciate  
being alive. and you continued  
on. never stopping. never waiting  
always leaving me 27 steps behind.

--Dan Kneustaut

## Buddy can ya' spare some change

A world of change, will come from one mind.  
A change of mind, comes from one will.  
A will of change, comes from a world of minds.  
A will of mind, comes from a world of change.  
One mind changes, a world that will mind  
Changing one world, comes from the will, of the world's mind.  
WILL A CHANGE OF WILL CAUSE A WORLD OF CHANGE?

--Written by Dockstader  
copyright 1998

## Interstitial Man

I live in the space between events.  
I am here when you are not.  
I eat the food you leave on your plate,  
Sleep in your bed before it's made.  
I watch your TV  
And read someone else's magazines.  
Where there is a space, I fill it,  
A need, I have it.  
I am the shadow seen  
out of the corner of the eye;  
The one who moves the things you leave  
behind.  
I am on the street  
And in your home.  
You see me every day,  
Not quite  
But I see.  
I know.  
You.

--Lisa Jenkins

## Untitled

(You and I) that day.  
Lone grey train station bookstore,  
Time magazine and Harlequin  
Smeared  
On brick  
Rain-distorted Coltrane wails  
Dully echoing.

The thoughts of you I had then,  
Staring,  
Remembering the previous evening's  
Twilight joint.  
How the smoke lingered lazily about,  
Eavesdropping.  
Your hair  
Dripping  
On greasy book covers.  
Blind cashier not caring,  
He was just digging the music.

Twisting bleary eyes towards me,  
Smiling in that way which always  
Comes out a seductive sneer.  
I saw you put Ginsberg's new book in your bag.  
Drip.  
The Charlie Parker-lookalike homeless man  
Saw you do it, too.  
Gently chuckling, he donned shades  
And slithered away.

A soft shuffle in the aisle  
To transcribe the jazz.  
No one looks up. They just wait  
In backache pain.  
Waiting for the train.  
Killing time  
Or  
At least trying.  
Incognito hipsters in the last  
Hip train station bookstore.

As we linked arms and strode  
Through the door,  
A glance back.  
Blind cashier bobbing his head,  
Still digging the music.

--Laine

## Fucking Myrna

Jet black hair,  
Pale blue eyes.  
Slim hands with long fingers,  
A quiet smile.  
She spoke to me once: "Thanks."  
She was unapproachable, statuesque.  
There was no reason I should be where she was,  
in Myrna.  
And I was in Bloomington.  
There I was,  
And there she was.  
In fucking Myrna,  
Fucking Illinois.

--Lisa Jenkins





# Tongue in Sarcasm

Look what we can do, see what we may be,  
opportunities abound, America; land of the free.  
Special people doing, what special people do,  
rich and mighty mortals, just like me and you.

We vote our leaders in, there is no ruling class,  
moral politicians, with reputations that will pass.  
It was Lincoln, freed the slaves and Roosevelt, ended the War,  
The Wrights flew the first airplane, Edison and Ford gave us more.

Integrity and scruples, will keep our country great,  
Kennedy and King, both taught us not to hate.  
These men were leaders, and faithfully so,  
we mourned their loss, we hated to see them go.

From border to border, from coast to coast,  
all eating hearty, raising glasses in a toast.  
Other nations are striving, just to be like us,  
Democracy is blooming, without a war or fuss.

Hustling for the all mighty dollar, hurry now, don't be late,  
our circumstances are left, to others in charge, and fate.  
The judicial system we believed in, now we hold a grudge,  
O.J. sure taught us, I'm sure that was a tough one to judge.

Single parents families, trying to just get by,  
taxes paid will help us, live this pie in the sky.  
Few things matter to those, living from check to check,  
we're watching politicians, but really; what the heck.

We have so much to do, with little time for ourselves,  
it's good we have TVs, with V.C.R.s, on our shelves.  
Yes, times are tough, we skimp, we save, so taxes won't be late.  
Hooray, we get to watch Bill Clinton, with his super, zipper-gate.

--Written by Dockstader  
copyright 1998

# the rapist in your dreams

i hate you for begging  
making me be the man  
to fuck you after  
your anonymous raper.

i hate you for making  
me fuck you and have to  
whisper in plea, "it's me...  
open your eyes and see  
that it is only me..."

i hate you for looking me  
in the eyes, showing  
me pain and fear  
i have never before seen.

i hate you for falling asleep  
in my arms, whispering, "no...  
no!" to the rapist in your dreams

--Dan Knestaut

# Leaving

That cold Cadillac steel  
Sweeping over us  
On the desert highway leading  
To the promised land.

You brought that Krishna to my attention.  
A narrow miss, my dear,  
Bad karma in the sand today.

What have you on that platter?  
A painting, I see.  
It is but a transient artistic apocalypse,  
Fleeting as these moments here with you.  
Cracking mortar in a wall that was to last  
Forever.

I see your mind wracked with madness,  
Wiping sweat from rose petal eyes.  
Your claw extends to adjust the radio.  
For a brief moment,  
The only sound is smoothly deteriorating asphalt.  
Gears shifting, grinding.  
A small factory beneath the hood of this beast.  
Then someone bravely plucking a stand up bass.  
Slow at first, then frenzy, now enlightened bliss.  
Impersonal intercourse, in stereo no less.  
Dashboard Jesus with a broken neck  
Standing idly by,  
Waiting for repentance perhaps.  
But there is none to be had.

News flash.  
A rebellion in the supermarket.  
Not enough oranges, no doubt.  
I suck some cancer and bite an apple  
As you steer.

Soon we will arrive.  
We will beat the train by hours  
And find a room. We are peasants now.  
Surely you must know our lives will change.  
We will learn to embrace squalor.  
A quick glance to read your eyes.  
But you smirk at me from behind sunglasses.

I used to believe you were a Goddess.

--Laine

# OPEN MICS

places and times for the poet in all of us.

- 7:00 Sunday's at Higher Ground
- 10:00 Wednesday's at Life's Little Perks
- 7:00 every 2nd & 4th Monday at the Normal Public Library
- 9:00 Thursday's at Coffee World
- 10:00 Wednesday's at The Lizard's Lounge

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